



Biodiesel May Become a Viable Option for NREL

NREL has reduced its fleet petroleum use by more than 30% in the past five years. This achievement has been accomplished by including alternative-fuel vehicles in NREL's fleet. In FY04, 36 of NREL's 47 fleet vehicles were AFVs. Because of limited availability of biodiesel fueling stations, only one NREL truck is currently using biodiesel. In the future, more of our diesel vehicles may use biodiesel, however. Blue Sun Biodiesel <http://www.bluesunbiodiesel.com/index.php> is expanding and has plans to open a biodiesel fueling station in Golden next month. The improved proximity to a fueling station for veggie-oil fuel may help NREL make another important cut in its petroleum consumption.

Biodiesel is a fuel that is made from soybeans, vegetable oils or recycled restaurant greases. B20, a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% regular diesel, shows emission reductions of sulfates and unburned hydrocarbons of 20% compared with straight diesel. Pure biodiesel's CO₂ scorecard beats that of conventional diesel by 78.5%, due to the uptake of atmospheric carbon by soybean or other plants used for fuel; this makes the process nearly "carbon-neutral." NREL used roughly 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel in FY04. If 100% biodiesel replaced this consumption (with no modifications to the vehicles necessary), it would save nearly 21,000 pounds of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere. This doesn't account for the fact that biodiesel can be made locally in many areas, eliminating the need for long-distance transport!

To learn more about biodiesel as well as all sorts of alternative fuels, visit the Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) at <http://eeredev.nrel.gov/afdc/>. This Web site is an on-line resource that covers topics from hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles, types of alternative fuels, fuel blends and fuel economy.

Features:

Biodiesel Biography

- GREEN Gardening
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It's That Time of Year Again!

Did you know that you can be fined \$50 or more for watering your lawn between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm through September 1? Be prepared....

Denver Water has listed its summer 2005 operating rules at <http://www.denverwater.org/drought/summerwateringrestrictions.html>.

This site also provides tools for managing lawn irrigation, including an easy way to measure water output from your sprinkler system and a month-by-month guide to bluegrass water needs.

Now... to avoid watering woes altogether, xeriscape!

Find tips and information at www.the-landscape-design-site.com/xeriscaping.html or at your local home and garden shop.

Here are some of our favorites:

- *Abies concolor* (white fir): a common evergreen tree
- *Bothriochloa saccharoides* (longspike silvers bluestem): a native grass
- *Calylophus lavendulifolius* (lavender-leaf primrose): a yellow perennial

Happy Gardening!



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It's Easy to Recycle

As all of you know, NREL has 14 different recycling centers around the campus and in the Denver West office buildings. Last year, we recycled 180,636 pounds of material including aluminum, glass and plastic containers, cardboard, and office paper and want to keep this trend going. In an effort to do that, there are a couple of things everyone can do. Please break down your cardboard boxes and do not place anything that is contaminated with food or chemicals into the recycling bins. If you have a question as to whether something can be recycled or not, check out the recycling page on Sustainable NREL's Web site. http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/recycling.html. We have a great staff that picks up all of our recycling, and they appreciate the extra effort you take to ensure that materials are recycled properly. Thanks for everyone's help!



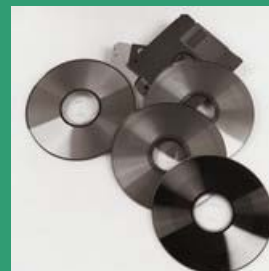
Quick Tip:

To recycle used CDs and diskettes:

Send them to Client Services, MS1711, through interoffice mail.

http://thesource.nrel.gov/is/client_services/recycling.html

http://thesource.nrel.gov/procedures/2-7_1.pdf



Visit the Sustainable Pioneer archive: http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/pioneer_news.html